



FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JIM COSTA

*Representing California's 20th District
Fresno County · Kern County · Kings County*

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SCIENCE COMMITTEE APPROVES METH BILL: COSTA URGES HOUSE APPROVAL

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20) strongly endorsed the House Science Committee approval of legislation which would help local law enforcement's efforts to eradicate methamphetamine production. Costa is a member of the committee and is a cosponsor of H.R. 798, the "Methamphetamine Remediation Act of 2005." "This legislation will insure that we protect meth's unintended victims such as law enforcement and children," said Costa.

The "Methamphetamine Remediation Act of 2005" would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with state and local authorities, to begin development of a national health-based clean-up guidelines for former meth labs. In addition, the bill would fund the development of field test kits which would be used by law enforcement to detect meth labs. Also, the legislation would fund a study on the long-term health effects of children recovered from meth lab sites and the health effects of meth on law enforcement officers.

"San Joaquin Valley law enforcement and health officials have been waging war on meth production, clean-up and health effects for 20 years," stated Congressman Costa. "While their work has had positive effects on the Valley, unfortunately meth use in our region is still a persistent problem."

"Valley law enforcement, through their collaborative efforts have dramatically reduced the number of meth production labs, especially the 'super labs,' however, the flow of methamphetamine from the Valley and through the Valley from labs across the border continues. H.R. 798 helps address some of the problems associated with site clean-up and the long term health effects," Costa noted.

"I was a strong proponent of efforts to combat the methamphetamine problem while I was in the California Legislature and I'll continue to support those efforts here in Washington. That includes working to ensure that federal funding continues. Unfortunately, the President's budget proposal reduces funding for these critical programs," Costa concluded.

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